PREVIOUSLY

There are some places you just don't mess with. Wakanda is one of them. Since the dawn of time, that African warrior nation has been sending would-be conquerors home in body bags. While the rest of Africa got carved up like a Christmas turkey by the rest of the world, Wakanda's cultural evolution has gone unchecked for centuries, unfettered by the yoke of colonization. The result: A hi-tech, resource-rich, ecologically-sound paradise that makes the rest of the world seem primitive by comparison.

Ruling over all this is T'Challa, the heir to the centuries-old warrior cult that's served as Wakanda's religious, political and military head since its inception: The Black Panther. Anyone who'd dare to make a move on Wakanda must go through him.

And someone does dare. His name is Klaw and—along with his team of super-powered villains—he's waged an all-out assault on Wakanda, aided and abetted by the Nigandan Army, made available to him by that country's corrupt Prime Minister, M'Butu. As the battle rages, the scorecard's close: T'Challa and the Wakandan Air Force put down the Rhino and the Black Knight, but not before Klaw and his lieutenant—Batroc—managed to penetrate the private chamber of the Queen Mother herself. With the Radioactive Man in hot pursuit of T'Challa's sister—Princess Shuri—in the caves beneath the palace, and Klaw holding a loaded gun to the head of T'Challa's mother, what can the Black Panther possibly hope to do?

And meanwhile, some very special forces hit the beachhead, courtesy of a very interested United States...

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WHY, T'CHALLA, WE MUST HAVE PASSED EACH OTHER ON THE WAY. THERE YOU ARE IN NIGANDA'S PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AND HERE I AM IN YOUR MOTHER'S BEDROOM. IMAGINE THAT?
WHO IS THE BLACK PANTHER?
PART SIX
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W'KABI... ARE YOU AWARE OF THE SECURITY BREACH IN THE QUEEN'S CHAMBERS?
YOUR UNCLE IS LEADING A TEAM THERE RIGHT NOW.
NO! HE'S TOO OLD FOR THAT!
IS THAT M'BUTU? YOU'VE BEATEN HIM SO BAD I CAN HARDLY *RECOGNIZE* HIM!
HE'S STILL ALIVE...WHICH IS BETTER THAN WHAT'S COMING TO YOU.

YOU HAVE NO LEVERAGE HERE, T'CHALLA. I HAVE YOUR MOTHER, AND I HAVE YOUR KINGDOM. NO MORE TOUGH TALK OR YOU'LL BE AN ORPHAN, GOT IT?
I'VE LIVED PLENTY, SON! I'LL DIE FIGHTING. YOU JUST DO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO SAVE WAKANDA!
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. I'VE GOT MORE THAN YOUR MOTHER HOSTAGE. LET ME SHOW YOU.
IGOR? THIS IS KLAW.
UV COURSE THESE IS YOU.
SHAKE THINGS UP.... JUST A LITTLE. TO SEND A MESSAGE.
DA.

WHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM
UNEXPECTED GEOLOGICAL MOVEMENT?
POSSIBLE UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTING?
ACTIVATING GEIGER COUNTER... DOWNLOADING METEOROLOGICAL REPORTS...
SEE, T'CHALLA? I AM THE NEW RULER OF WAKANDA. OR I'LL COLLAPSE THE ENTIRE COUNTRY INTO A BIG POTHOLE. MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME.
NOW FIND A NICE SHARP KNIFE...OR A DULL ONE. I DON'T CARE...AND KILL YOURSELF. NOW.

NEW YORK.

THIS IS THE FASTEST CRAFT I'VE BEEN ON IN MY LIFE.
WE'LL BE IN WAKANDA IN AN HOUR.

DO YOU THINK TAKING HER TO WAKANDA IS THE BEST THING, T'SHAN? TO BRING OUTSIDERS TO THE KINGDOM, ESPECIALLY IN A TIME OF CRISIS...
SHE'S OUR BEST CHANCE OF ENDING THE STANDOFF. ANY SURPRISES ON HER SECURITY CHECK?
NO WEAPONS, CYBERNETIC ENHANCEMENTS, FOREIGN BIOLOGICAL AGENTS...
YOU MEAN THAT'S ALL HER?
YEP.

ALSO...HER MARRIAGE TO IGOR STANCHECK--A.K.A. "THE RADIOACTIVE MAN"--ALL CHECKS OUT. I THINK YOU'RE MAKING THE RIGHT PLAY. JUST DON'T GET TALKATIVE AFTER YOU SLEEP WITH HER.
WHO SAID I WAS GOING TO SLEEP WITH HER?

WHO *WOULDN'T?* YOU DON'T THINK YOU'VE GOT A BIG "THANK YOU" COMING FOR SAVING HER HUSBAND'S LIFE?

SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, T'CHALLA? DO IT!
OR WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "OR WHAT?" I TOLD YOU--
THAT YOU WOULD KILL MY MOTHER? YOU WILL ANYWAY. THAT YOU WOULD DESTROY MY KINGDOM? YOU WILL DO THAT ANYWAY, TOO.
IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER WHAT YOU DO-- I'M STILL GOING TO KILL YOU.
SO WHAT'S YOUR LEVERAGE?
THAT'S MY SON!
YOU MEAN THE ONE WHO JUST SENTENCED YOU TO DEATH?
NO, THE ONE THAT JUST SENTENCED YOU TO DEATH.
AND BY THE WAY, KLAW, A COMMON CRIMINAL LIKE YOU HAS NO RIGHT TO USE MY PROPER NAME. YOU CAN REFER TO ME BY MY TITLE--

WHAMM!
ANOTHER ONE?
FINE. I'LL JUST KEEP KILLING PANTHERS UNTIL NONE OF YOU ARE LEFT.
HANDLE THE FOOL WITH THE MUSTACHE. I'LL TAKE KLAW.
AGREED.

WOMEN SHOULD BE KEESED NOT KICKED, HOWEVER...
YOUR LIFE ISN'T WORTH A DAMN TO ANYONE IN YOUR FAMILY, OLD WOMAN!
LET'S SEE HOW THEY FEEL WHEN I TAKE YOUR HEAD--
OOOOOFF!
I'D THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER GET IN POSITION!

NO, KLAW! NOW ZE LADIES ARE BEATING YOU UP?
I DON'T SEE YOU DOING SO WELL!
BUT THEEZE WOMEN ARE YOUNG! AND THEY ARE TWO OF THEEM!
DAMN! THE PANTHER IS GONE!
THERE ARE STILL MORE PANTHERS HERE THAN YOU CAN HANDLE!
AHHHH!
WHUMP
OH, THAT'S NOTHING!
THIS IS REALLY GOING TO HURT.

ALL THAT TOUGH TALK--
BZZZ

BOOM
IGOR! I DIDN'T ORDER ANOTHER QUAKE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THAT'S NOT ME. DID YOUR TROOPS BLOW SOMETHING BIG UP?
I NEED TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON FOR MYSELF.
FZZZZZZZZZ
ZZZZZZZZAT
WHOA! WHAT KIND OF OPERATING SYSTEM ARE THE WAKANDANS USING? THIS IS PRETTY COMPLEX.

OKAY... WHERE ARE THE SECURITY CAMERAS?
FZZAAAP
YOUR FIREWALLS COULDN'T KEEP ME OUT IN THE REAL WORLD--
--WHY SHOULD IT BE ANY DIFFERENT HERE?
NOTHING THERE...THAT'S NOT IT...
WIND-UP ZOMBIES.
THE AMERICANS ARE MAKING THEIR PLAY.
IGOR, OUR TIMETABLE HAS BEEN ACCELERATED. I NEED TO TAKE COMMAND OF THE WAKANDAN DEFENSE SYSTEMS. IF YOU DON'T HEAR FROM ME IN 15 MINUTES, TAKE THIS WHOLE PLACE DOWN. WE DIDN'T DO ALL THIS FOR THE AMERICANS TO OWN IT.
DA, ■ FIFTEEN MINUTES IT ALL GOES DOWN. JUST ■ READY TO DIG ME OUT.

UUGAH
WHO IS THAT?! COME OUT, OR I KEEL YOU!
KRUNCH
KAKOGO CHYORTA...
YOU TRIED TO KEEL ME!
...DIDN'T WORK, HUH...
NOW I WILL KEEL YOU!

WHOSE ROBOTS ARE THESE?
CYBORGS, SIR. THEY APPEAR TO BE ABOUT 40 TO 70 PERCENT ORGANIC MATTER, SIR. REANIMATED CORPSES. U.S. ISSUE.
PERVERTED.
EXCUSE ME, SIR--OUR SECURITY SYSTEMS ARE UNDER CYBER-ASSAULT!

NEEGHHHHHHH!
THIS ONE'S A LITTLE--

SYSTEM UNDER ATTACK.

ELIMINATE VIRUS.
IGOR? CAN YOU HEAR ME? I CAN'T HACK THEIR SYSTEM. JUST TAKE THE WHOLE THING DOWN!

YOU CLIMB FAST, LIKE A MONKEY.
LIKE A PANTHER, ACTUALLY.
BUT YOU'LL SCREAM LIKE ALL THE REST.
....PLEASE.... FALL.....
OH MY! WHAT IS THIS?
SEE? THIS IS HOW YOUR BONES WILL MELT, YOU STUPID GIRL.

IGOR! IGOR! STOP! FOCUS ON THE JOB AT HAND! YOU CAN KILL HER ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE--
HEY, WHERE *IS* EVERYBODY ELSE?
ZEY ESCAPED WHILE YOU WERE LOST IN ZE CYBERWORLD.
WHY DIDN'T THEY "KEEL" YOU?
I BEGGED.
REGENT S'YAN IS STILL IN SHOCK.
WE NEED A TRANSPORT TO GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL.
QUEEN MOTHER, I CAN CARRY THAT--
--I'VE CARRIED BLOODY LIMBS BEFORE! LET'S GO BEFORE THE SOLDIERS SEE US!
AH, *THERE* YOU ARE!
GOOD, STAY TIGHTLY BUNCHED. I CAN KILL YOU ALL IN ONE SHOT.

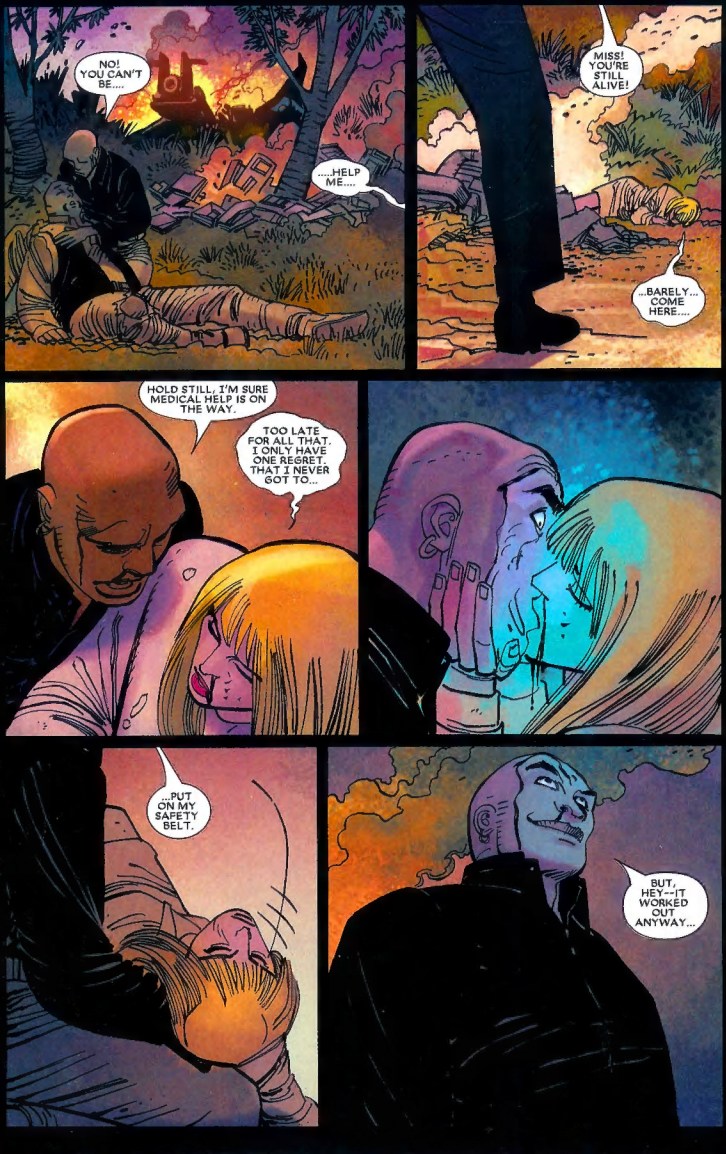
UGH
SHRAAAAK
WE'VE BEEN HIT!
BRACE YOURSELF FOR AN EMERGENCY LANDING!

UHNF! FAST!
AIIEEE!
POINT SOMEWHERE ELSE!
AHHHH!
SHOCKING, ISN'T IT?
TIME TO WRAP THIS UP, KLAW!
IN A BLANKET?! THIS IS... PATHETIC!
A-HA! FOUND YOU!

I COULD STRANGLE YOU---
--BUT WHY WASTE TIME?
ZZZZZT
I-I-I-I-I-I-I CAN'T BELIEVE I DID THAT!
NOT AGAIN!
NOW THAT I'VE DISARMED YOU...
OH BUT YOU HAVEN'T. I'M TWICE AS DANGEROUS NOW.

IGOR! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DA, I HEAR YOU! JUST GIVE ME VUN SECOND!
LITTLE GIRL, WHY DO YOU THINK THAT NAIL FILE WILL HURT ME?
BECAUSE MOST BLADES CAN'T CUT THROUGH SOLID ROCK.
IGOR... IGOR!

YOU THINK A STRAW SHIELD WILL STOP A LASER BEAM?
A VIBRANIUM SHIELD WILL.
AND AS FOR YOU--
--AMANDLA!
THAT IS FOR MY FATHER.

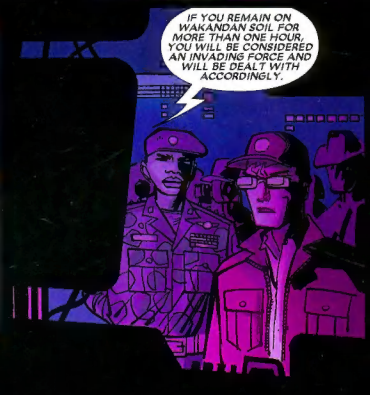

NO! YOU CAN'T BE....
....HELP ME....
MISS! YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
..BARELY... COME HERE....
HOLD STILL, I'M SURE MEDICAL HELP IS ON THE WAY.
TOO LATE FOR ALL THAT. I ONLY HAVE ONE REGRET, THAT I NEVER GOT TO...
..PUT ON MY SAFETY BELT.
BUT, HEY--IT WORKED OUT ANYWAY...

GREETINGS, YOUR HIGHNESS. WE ARE MILITARY ASSISTANCE SENT BY THE UNITED STATES TO HELP SECURE YOUR BORDERS.
I DON'T MEAN TO INTRUDE ON WHAT MUST BE A VERY POWERFUL MOMENT, KEELING THE MAN WHO KEELED YOUR FATHAIR AND ALL...BUT DON'T YOU THINK WE BOTH NEED MEDICAL ATTENTION, OU!?

YOUR ASSISTANCE WAS NOT REQUESTED AND THE THREAT HAS BEEN NEUTRALIZED.
WE WILL SWEEP THE PERIMETER FOR ANY REMAINING--

ZOMBIE-- BROADCAST THIS MESSAGE BACK TO YOUR HANDLERS:

WAKANDA APPRECIATES THE OFFER OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, YOUR HELP IS NOT NEEDED.


IF YOU REMAIN ON WAKANDAN SOIL FOR MORE THAN ONE HOUR, YOU WILL BE CONSIDERED AN INVADING FORCE AND WILL BE DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY.

...MESSAGE RECEIVED.
WE'LL BE HEADING BACK TO BASE.
HAVE A NICE DAY.
THE END

MAIL TO THE KING!

All right, Panther-philes, it's that time at last. Time to announce the winner of this li'l old soundtrack contest we've got going on, so without further ado, we give you Reggie Hudlin...

I love each and every entry in the BLACK PANTHER soundtrack contest. I love them because it shows how many different types of people from all over the world are enjoying the book.

One thing that impressed me about all of them—there wasn't a single play list where I knew every song mentioned. Sometimes I didn't know ANY song on the list—which is pretty amazing, given how wide a range of music I listen to. But the stuff I did know…oh man, the artists, the songs…very tasteful, not just obvious hits, but deep album cuts that folks put a lot of thought into.

Entries fell into a couple of different categories. There were great old school compilations, like this wonderful one by Robert Jones, Jr. of Brooklyn, NY:

1. "The Cisco Kid" – *War*
2. "I'm A Man" – *Bo Diddley*
3. "Buffalo Soldier" – *Bob Marley*
4. "On and On" – *Gladys Knight and the Pips*
5. "Tensions" – *Charles Mingus*
6. "I Wanna Go Back" – *The Impressions*
7. "Intimate Friends" – *Eddie Kendricks*
8. "For The Good Times" – *Al Green*
9. "Baby, It's Cold Outside" – *Ray Charles*
10. "He Miss Road" – *Fela Kuti*

Loving the Bo Diddley joint on that one!

You also had hip-hop compilations like this one from Liston Davis of Tallahassee, FL:

1. "Down With the King" – *Run DMC*
2. "Many Men" – *50 Cent*
3. "Crown" – *JaRule*
4. "Roll Call" – *Lil John and the Eastside Boys (ft Ice Cube)*
5. "Headbussa" – *Lil Scrappy*
6. "Still Ballin'" – *2Pac featuring Trick Daddy*
7. "No Problem" – *Lil Scrappy*
8. "What More Can I Say" – *Jay-Z*
9. "Get Some Crunk In Yo System" – *Trillville*
10. "Word to the Mother(Land)" – *Big Daddy Kane*

While a Bob Marley song was included on most play lists, there were some that were hard rock only, like this one from Alex of Ontario, Canada, who stuck to a lyrical metaphor theme:

1. "Welcome to the Jungle" – *Guns N' Roses*
2. "Kitty" – *Presidents of the United States of America*
3. "Run to the Hills" – *Iron Maiden*
4. "Eye of the Tiger" – *Survivor*
5. "Leaders of Men" – *Joy Division*
6. "Animal" – *Def Leppard*
7. "Cat's in the Cradle" – *Harry Chapin*
8. "Pride" – *U2*
9. "I Want it All" – *Queen*
10. "Back In Black" – *AC/DC*

Here's a scary list from Joel Trilles of London, England:

1. "All Caps" – *MF DOOM*
2. "Straight Outta Compton" (Kid 606 Remix) – *N.W.A.*
3. "Biomechanic" – *Anthony Rother*
4. "Cops Ain't @&#!" – *Evil II*
5. "RIP" – *Remarc*
6. "Afrika Shox" – *Afika Bambaataa/Leftfield*
7. "Voodoo Ray" – *A Guy Called Gerald*
8. "Funky Cold Medina" – *Tone Loc*
9. "Fat Camp Feva" (Funckarma Remix) – *Funkstorung*
10. "Don't Panic" – *Modeselektor*

Guillermo Britez took a different approach and literally scored the first issue, scene by scene. Check out his eclectic mix:

1. The opening scene: "Wherever I May Roam" – *Metallica*
2. The Black Panther defeats the invaders: "Paint It Black" – *The Rolling Stones*
3. The Black Panther fights Captain America: "Battle Without Honor or Humanity" – *Tomayasu Hotei* (from Tarantino's *Kill Bill*)
4. Klaw revealed: "Extreme Ways" – *Moby*
5. Klaw preparing the attack on Wakanda: "Hell's Bells" – *AC/DC*
6. T'Chaka's assassination: "Voices of Spring" – *Strauss* (A beautiful waltz)
7. T'Challa is crowned King: "Eleanor Rigby" (instrumental) – *The Beatles*
8. Enter the Black Knight: "Elevation" – *U2*
9. T'Challa's moment of peace: "Not enough time" – *INXS*
10. The Black Panther fights Klaw: "Knockin' on Heaven's Door" – *Guns n' Roses*

The second runner-up is Randall Brown from Milwaukee, WI:

1. "Come Inside" – *Blue Six*
2. "So High" – *John Legend*
3. "Uncharted Terrain" – *Lenny Kravitz*
4. "Akel Dama (Field of Blood)" – *Me'Shell N'degeocello*
5. "He Loves Me (Lyzel in E Flat)" – *Jill Scott*
6. "The Dope Dance" – *Ming & F5*
7. "Spark" – *The Roots*
8. "Gaze" – *Sweetback*
9. "Last Night" (instrumental) – *2 Cold*
10. "Devil's Pie" – *D'Angelo*

Jill Scott, Me'Shell N'degeocello… niiiice!

The first runner-up is volume 2 (of a two-disc set) by Kevan Cameron of Burnaby, BC Canada:

1. "War" – *Bob Marley*
2. "Down with the King" – *Run DMC*
3. "H.N.I.C." – *Prodigy (of Mobb Deep)*
4. "Silent Hero" – *Des-ree*
5. "In Due Time" – *OutKast featuring Cee-Lo*
6. "Payback" – *James Brown*
7. "Pressure Drop" – *Toots and Maytals*
8. "Brown Skin" – *India Arie*
9. "Come Clean" – *Jeru the Damaja*
10. "Rastaman Vibration" – *Bob Marley*

I have lots of favorites on here, like "Payback," "Pressure Drop," "In Due Time," "Down with the King" (perfect)…but most of all…"COME CLEAN"!!!! How hot is that track?

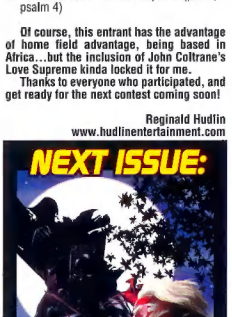
Sad to say, you can only pick one winner, although everyone brought their A game. But I have to give it up to Niik Botchway of Johannesburg, South Africa, for this list:

1. "Afro Left" – *Leftfield*
2. "Djembe" – *Salif Keita*
3. "Beng Beng Beng" – *Femi Kuti*
4. "Africa Centre of the World" – *Fela Kuti*
5. "Medan (Remix)" – *Salif Keita*
6. "Malika" – *McCoy Turner*
7. "The Black Star Sound" – *Nile Safari*, from the album *"Ghana Soundz: Afrobeat in '70s Ghana"*
8. "Life (Asdouna)" – *Youssour N'Dour*
9. "Soul Makossa" – *Manu Dibango*
10. "John Coltrane" – *A Love Supreme* (part 4, psalm 4)

Of course, this entrant has the advantage of home field advantage, being based in Africa…but the inclusion of John Coltrane's Love Supreme kinda locked it for me.

Thanks to everyone who participated, and get ready for the next contest coming soon!

Reginald Hudlin
www.hudlinentertainment.com



"Soul Power in the House of M" with guest artist Trevor Hairsine!

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